MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

F2020-SB3

Adopting Middlebury Money to Stimulate Local Economy and Ease Financial Barriers

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Whereas, the college states that "Middlebury is centrally committed to the value of a diverse and respectful community. Our natural setting in Vermont's Champlain Valley, with the Green

Mountains to the east and the Adirondacks to the west, is also crucial to our identity, providing refreshment and inspiration as well as a natural laboratory for research."

Whereas, the location of the college, specifically its close proximity to the town, has allowed for students to patronize local businesses and support the local economy.

Whereas, crucial to the Middlebury experience is having the means to experience Vermont small-town life.

Whereas, for the academic year 2020-2021, the SGA created the External Affairs committee in an effort to better our relationship with the town.

Whereas, this SGA wants to empower students to experience the town's shops and restaurants without any financial barriers.

Whereas, one of the community partners for the External Affairs committee is the Better Middlebury Partnership (BMP), chaired by Karen Duguay.

Whereas, Middlebury students are given $25 in declining balance.

Whereas, Middlebury's declining balance is meant to be used at Middlebury College locations such as MiddXpress, Crossroads Cafe, and Wilson Cafe.

Whereas, the Middlebury College declining balance is not currently available for use in stores or restaurants in town.

Whereas, Experience Middlebury explains that "Middlebury Money is a check that you can use anywhere in Middlebury! It is drawn off a bank account at National Bank of Middlebury owned by the Better Middlebury Partnership in efforts to keep dollars within the local economy."

Whereas, the purpose of Middlebury Money is to encourage people to spend their money within the community and in turn helps bolster the local economy.

Whereas, Middlebury Money "can be spent at almost all businesses in Middlebury: large or small, retail or service." Some popular businesses that take Middlebury Money include;

A. American Flatbread
B. Middlebury Bagel and Deli
C. Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op
D. Middlebury Discount Beverage
E. Otter Creek Bakery
F. Sabai Sabai
G. Vermont Book Shop
H. Two Brothers Tavern

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I. Exhaustive list may be found at https://experiencemiddlebury.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Middlebury_Money_Accepting_Merchants.pdf

Whereas, the students of Middlebury College contribute heavily to the local economy.

Whereas, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, town businesses suffered great economic losses as a result of decreased economic activity, partly attributed to the lack of students on campus from March-August.

Therefore, be it enacted…

That, the college administration and the Student Activities Office will work to offer students the choice of either having $25 in declining balance or $25 in Middlebury Money.

That, this will be an opt-in program for students in Spring 2021.

That, if students do not opt-in to Middlebury Money the default will be $25 in declining balance.

That, the SGA will send out a survey to students asking whether they want to receive Middlebury Money for Spring 2021 and take note of ID numbers and mailbox numbers.

That, the SGA will report to David Provost and Matt Curran with the students who wish to have Middlebury Money over declining balance.

That, the college and SGA coordinate with the Middlebury Mailroom to safely deliver the Middlebury Money to the correct mailboxes of students.

That, this, and future SGAs will continue to work with the SAO and Administration to find ways to ease the financial burden of experiencing the town to the fullest extent.

That, this, and subsequent SGAs will continue to have conversations with David Provost about increasing the declining balance to further remove financial barriers.

That, the SGA External Affairs Committee will communicate with its Community Partners, especially the Better Middlebury Partnership, to continue to think of creative ways for students to support the local community.

Respectfully submitted,

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